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was, however, discovered; some human and animal bones, a stone artificially rounded, probably used to bruise corn, and a portion of the bone handle of a knife or dagger, were, however, found in the excavation, and, by Mr. Wandesforde's desire, are now deposited in our museum.

It is worthy of remark that although the sept of the Brennans is still numerous in the district, which they held as mere Irish down to 1636, yet, strange to say, the Irish language is totally disused in the district, and far less traditionary matter lingers amongst them than in any other part of our County with which I am acquainted—an observation which holds good, I believe, of most recently planted districts of Ireland; as, for instance, the Queen's County, where, in the most remote glens of the Slieve-Bloom mountains, not a word of the Irish language is spoken or understood.

Since the foregoing was in type, by the kindness of Sir William Betham, Ulster King of Arms, I have been enabled to print the following extract from the Pipe Rolls, preserved in Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle, which is highly interesting as affording an independent and undoubted testimony to the authenticity of the pedigree given at p. 234 ante, from the Book of Mc Firbis; and also enabling us to prove with certainty that Auliffe, son of Melaghlin, the grandfather of Auliffe Oge, was living in 1286, and therefore to infer that Auliffe Oge, in whom the pedigree terminates, lived till the commencement of the 14th century:—

"Anelef Mc Malaghelyn O'Brennan x¹¹. de fine pro pace habenda, quas dominus Willielmus Cadel manucepit." (Compotus Com. de

Katherlagh, 1286 to 1289.)

ANCIENT TRIBES AND TERRITORIES OF OSSORY.

NO. II.

[COMMUNICATED BY JOHN O'DONOVAN, ESQ., LL.D.]

I transcribe from Peregrine O'Clery's manuscript copy of O'Heerin's topographical poem that portion which relates to ancient Ossory, extending from Slieve-Bloom to the sea; which, with the translation and notes annexed, may assist the members of the Kilkenny Archæological Society to investigate the ancient territories and tribes of that district.

O'Heerin died in 1420. Peregrine O'Clery's transcript of his poem is preserved in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

Thiall can Beanba na pheab rean, Tan eir laochaide Laizean, Co cuan clan-ruinn mo choide, Co rluaz aluinn Ornaide.

2ήλος Τροίλο-Ρατμαίος ρυίμε διεας Ιατ Ογπαίδε αγ δο αγ δίτξεαδ, Ο Βλοδιμά απαό της απ πυίμ, Calma a cat or na catulb.

Uημιοζα ης ταοιρηζ τμοπα Lαθμοπ κα Lαοό Uματομοπα, Ο Βεαμβα το πήπ Υθμπμαπ, Le πηζ Τεαπημα α τατάζαδ.

Δητο τλοιγελό τυλιτέ λη τομλιό Ο'η Choill λοιβίης υλοκτομλίο Ο'Φυβήλημε, κίλι λη κελή. Ο'η τ-γίλο λη λίμε ιη βελή.

Ο' Ceapbaill δ' ap copepa cpoinn, Ο' Φοπης haδα δρελό διοξοίηπ, Sloiż liaz ap δο' η τίρ τομαίδ Φα μίζ α h-αοης hοπαίμ.

1 The Barrow, beants, explained, ata na balte, i.e., the dumb or silent river, in the Dinnsenchus.

² Ancient streams. This clearly alludes to its tributaries, which frequently

cause it to overflow its banks.

³ Heroes of Leinster. Ossory is usually distinguished from Leinster. The people of Ossory are sometimes called Fionn-Mhuimhnigh, i.e., fair Munstermen. See note 44.

4 Of my heart, i.e., "dear to me," a common Irish idiom.

5 Mac Gillaphadraig, now Fitzpatrick. Patrick Vincent Fitzpatrick, who believes himself to be the head of this race, and Felix Fitzpatrick, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, who married Miss Colclough, are now (next after the illegitimate son of the late Earl) the most distinguished members, clari homines, of this family. But Malachy Fitzpatrick, who is clerk to Sir Matthew Barrington, says that he is of an older sept than either of these gentlemen; he cannot, however, show any proof of his descent. I believe that Felix Fitzpatrick can prove his descent from the old stock of Ossory, as well as his relationship to James Freney (See p. 246 ante) and Cardinal Wiseman.

6 Bregian fort, i.e., Tara, a tasteless compliment to the king of Ossory, to

indicate his regal grade.

- 7 From Bladhma out to the sea, i.e., from Slieve-Bloom to the Meeting of the Three Waters, opposite Cheek-point, County of Waterford.
 - 8 Brave is his battle over battles, or brave his battalion above battalions.
 9 Urries, i.e., sub-chiefs. Shane O'Neill contended in England that all the
- chiefs of Ulster were Urrighs, or sub-chiefs, tributary to himself.

 10 Chiefs, taoisigh, i.e., leaders, or commanders of smaller clans.
 - 11 Liathdruim, another name of Tara, introduced here in very bad taste. It

Pass the Barrow of ancient streams,2 After [describing] the heroes of Leinster³ To the tribe of the level land of my heart,4 To the beautiful host of Ossory.

Mac-Gillaphadraig⁵ of the Bregian fort,⁶ The land of Ossory to him is due, From Bladhma out to the sea,⁷ Brave is his battle above battles.8

Urries⁹ and heavy chiefs¹⁰ I mention under this hero of Liathdruim,¹¹ From the Barrow to the plain of Munster, 12 To the king of Tara¹³ it belongs to cement them.

The head chieftain of the fruitful cantred Of the delightful Coill-Uachtorach¹⁴ Is O'Dubhshlaine,15 hospitable the man, From the mountain of most beauteous rivers. 16

O'Cearbhaill¹⁷ for whom the trees are ruddy, ¹⁸ O'Donnchadha¹⁹ of honest aspect (Whose firm hosts possess the fruitful land), Are two kings in the same direction.

would improve the context much to insert Roighne, the old name of Kells, in Ossory, in place of Liathdruim. Thus:-

> Unniż ir caoiriż fine Labnom ra laoc majże Rojżne.

12 Plain of Munster, i.e., Magh Femhin, in the south-east of the County of Tipperary.

13 King of Tara. This means Mac-Gillaphadraig, and not O'Melaghlin, for which O'Heerin deserves some rough castigation. Originally, however, I believe that Ossory was specially under the protection of the king of Tara.

14 Coill-Uachtorach, i.e., Upper Wood. The Ordnance Survey has erected

this territory into a separate barony in the Queen's County.

15 O'Dubhshlaine, i.e., O'Dulany, now Delany, a name still common in this territory. Dubh-Shlaine, i.e., the Black Man of the river Slaney, nomen pro-

genitoris.

16 Beauteous rivers. Invers, the term used by O'Heerin, is wrong, because the Nore and Barrow, which rise in this mountain, have their invers, or mouths elsewhere. He should have said "in which the lovely sister rivers have their fountains or sources;" but we must allow him his own terms. He evidently puts invers for rivers by bardic license.

17 O'Cearbhaill, i.e., O'Carroll; but different from O'Carroll of the race of Oilioll Olum, seated in Ely-O'Carroll, at the Munster side of Slieve-Bloom,

now a part of the King's County.

18 Trees are ruddy, i.e., with fruit. Such was O'Carroll's righteous rule that God blessed the fruit trees on his account. This tract is included in the barony of Gowran.

19 O'Donnchadha, now Dunphy. It is anglicised like Murphy, from

laim ne Beanba an bhuaic tonais, Rí na chice at chualobain, Fean sa comtota or Moit Mail O'Donnchasa zloin Zabhain.

Ó Chill Chainniż na z-cloż n-aoil Co Sliab z-Caiżle an chuic rél-caoin Cluain Ui Cheapbaill, d'an min muin, Cin an cuain ceannzujum cocluiz.

η-U1-Ουαό Ογμαίδε απ έμιππ τε, Γιοποόλαμ καμιτίπο πα Γεοίμε, Νή καδαίτα κεαδ απ όλαιμ, Γεαμ α δαμάπτα Ο'Βμαοπαίμ.

1 Μυίζ Ιαία πα Ιεαμζ τε, Ο Γαοίαιπ, τεαμδα απ τίπε, Μόμ απ δύιται ατ δίοι δαίδ, Φο ίτοπ τύτα Ο Γαοίαιπ.

O'E) unchaba. The head of this family founded Jerpoint Abbey in 1180. I knew an old man of this sept, who lived near Gaulskill. He was always called Shane O'Donoghue; but his son is now called Dunphy. The latter form of the name is considered genteel in Ossory, but plebeian in Kerry, where O'Donoghue is considered noble. Such is the whim of custom!

20 Magh Mail, i.e., the plain of Mal. This was the name of O'Dunphy's

²⁰ Magh Mail, i.e., the plain of Mal. This was the name of O'Dunphy's territory situate in that part of the barony of Gowran lying along the Barrow. After the English invasion the O'Dunphys removed to Clandonagh, now a

part of Upper Ossory, in the Queen's County.

21 Gabhran, now Gowran. O'Dunphy lived at Gowran till driven from thence by the English. The O'Caellys, or Kellys, afterwards had some pro-

perty here

²² Cill-Chainnigh, i.e., St. Canice's church, now Kilkenny. Ledwich says that this name signifies "wooded head near the river" (Antiq. 2nd ed. pp. 6,382); but Ussher gives the true derivation (Primord. p. 957). See also Lanigan, Vol. II., p. 202.

²³ Sliabh g-Caithle. This was the name of a mountain, or rather mountainous grounds, on the confines of the territories of O'Carroll and O'Dunphy, in the barony of Gowran; but no trace of the name (which would be anglicised Slieve-Gahill, or Slie-Cahill) is now to be found.

²⁴ The sea is smooth, i.e., whenever he goes to sea he lays the storms. The Irish chiefs had nearly the same influence over the elements as the Irish saints,

though both were of the genus iritabile, according to Giraldus.

25 Ui-Duach, now Idough. This territory, which was otherwise called the cantred of the Comar, from Comar (now Castlecomer, the chief residence of its chieftains), comprised the whole of the present barony of Fassadineen, and a considerable part of that of Galmoy.

Near the Barrow of fruitful border, The king of the district, ye have heard, Is the man, who is elected over Magh Mail,²⁰ The fine O'Donnchadha of Gabhran.²¹

From Cill-Chainnigh²² of the lime-stones, To Sliabh g-Caithle²³ of beauteous slope Is the plain of O'Cearbhaill for whom the sea is smooth,²⁴ Land of the green rich grassy carpet.

Ui-Duach²⁵ of Ossory of the warm soil, The fair, wide plain of the *Feoir*,²⁶ Not easily passable is the wood of the plain, Its protecting chieftain is O'Broenain.²⁷

Mac Broein²⁸ of the *fast* land Over the Clanns I commemorate, A fine district of beauteous nuts; O'Broithe²⁹ over free Magh Sedna.³⁰

In Magh-lacha³¹ of the warm hill-slopes, Is O'Faelain³² of manly tribe, Extensive is the district due to them Which the O'Faelains have peopled.

²⁶ Plain of the Feoir, i.e. of the river Nore, which flowed through the ancient Ui-Duach. This line is valuable.

of them are Quakers at Mountmellick, Queen's County! Dr. Brennan of Dublin, commonly known as "the Wrestling Doctor," was believed to be the head of the race in the beginning of this century. He was a poet of no ordinary sarcasm. He left a son, who recovered his property, which was involved in law.

²⁸ Mac Broein, now Breen. The situation of the Clanns is not determined; perhaps the barony of Knocktopher may be the district alluded to. A branch

of this family settled in the County of Wexford.

29 O'Broithe, now Brophy,—there are several of this name in the County of

Kilkenny.

30 Magh Sedna, so named from Sedna, the progenitor of the O'Brophys, was comprised in the present barony of Galmoy, in the County of Kilkenny, but nothing has yet been discovered to fix the boundary between it and Ui-Duach. Sometime after the English invasion, O'Broithe was driven out of Magh-Sedna, and he settled under the protection of Mac-Gillaphadraig in Upper Ossory, at a place called from him Buile-Ui-Bhroithe, now anglicised Ballybrophy, situated not far from Borris-in-Ossory.

31 Magh-lacha. The plains of Magh-lacha and Magh-Roighne are comprised in the present barony of Kells, in the County of Kilkenny. According to Colgan (Trias Thaum. p. 625), Magh-lacha contains the parish church of Cill-Bhrighde major, and the chapel of Cill-Bhrighde, and according to the Festilogium of Ængus the Culdee, Magh Roighne contains the church of Cill-Fhinche, now Killinny, a townland in the parish and barony of Kells, in the

County of Kilkenny.

32 O'Faclain, now Whelan and Phelan, a name still common all over the

Or Majż Ajnb, rlojineam co re, O' Cajbbeanajż clan coille Ceann zac cojnne an rinn rorajb, I z-cjonn Choille O' z-Cacorajż.

Fuain O'Tlojajni, zécc mir Chiocha céo do chích milir, Feanann mín im Challaind chaoin, Cín zan callaind do cachaoin.

U1 Beaution an built buide— Ri na chiche O'Caolluide, Clan na readna at thom do til, Un ronn or Beauda buaoin-til.

Rj Ó-η-Εηκ ηλ η-ελέμλο γελης, Ο'Βημαδλημ, byle δίθεληη, Ομίοεη ζλημήθελε δ'η τρομη ταιθε, Μλη κοηη πλητικάς Μλουμίαζε.

County of Kilkenny. The O'Faelains of this race are to be distinguished from

those of the Desi-Mumhan, in the present County of Waterford.

33 Magh-Airbh, i.e., the plain of Arbh (a man's name), a territory comprised in the present barony of Cranagh, in the County of Kilkenny. See Circuit of Muircheartach Mac Neill (published by the Irish Archaelogical Society), p. 39.

34 O'Caibhdeanaigh, now Gaffney, and sometimes Kavanagh.

35 Coill-O'g-Cathosaigh, i.e., Wood of the O'Caseys, was a large wood in the plain of Magh-Airbh, but no trace of the name is now preserved. It would be anglicised Kill-o-Casey.

36 O'Gloriarn. There are some traces of this name at present in the name O'Glorin; Clorin, Claran, or Clerrin may also represent it. It is to be found

in the King's County, but I do not remember it in Kilkenny.*

37 Callann, now the King's River. There are two other rivers of this name in Ireland, one in the County of Kerry, in Munster, called Callainn-Glinne-Ua-Ruachtain, and the other in the County of Armagh, in Ulster. The present "Liberties of Callan" formed a portion of the sweet cantred of O'Gloiairn

lying on both sides of the Callann.

38 Ui-Bearrchon, now Ibercon. It is to be remarked that O'Heerin makes this comprise the three old baronies of Ida, Igrine and Ibercon, while at present Ida sinks the other two names. Of the three old baronies now comprised in Ida, that called Igrine contained Tory-hill (Sliabh-Igrine), Gaulskill, Gaulstown, &c. Ida contained the central portion of the same barony, and Ibercon contained Ross-Ibercon and the northern part. A family of the name of O'Dea,† or O'Day, was highly respectable in Ida down to the time of Cromwell. The head of this family was locally called AN RIDINE Deajac, i.e., the Knight O'Dea, and the ruins of his house were to be seen about thirty years ago near the meres of the townlands of Scartnamoe and Carriganurra, in the parish of Kilcolumb, barony of Ida, and County of Kilkenny. See Ordnance map and "Names of the Gentlemen inhabiting the County of Kilkenny with the Value of their Lands," in the Carew collection of MSS., at Lambeth Palace, No. 611, p. 87. It should be here remarked, that according to local tradition the

* The name, Glory, is found in the City of Kilkenny. - EDS.

+ The Ui-Dea EAST and west, were under the special patronage of St. Moling. The eastern Ui-Dea were seated in the deanery of Oday, barony of Gorey, County of Wexford.

Over Magh-Airbh, ³³ I now mention, Is O'Caibhdeanaigh ³⁴ of the woody plain, Head of every meeting is the steady chief At the head of Coill-O'g-Cathosaigh. ³⁵

O'Gloiairn,³⁶ the fruitful branch has got A cantred of a sweet country, The smooth land along the beauteous Callann,³⁷ A land without a particle of blemish.

Ui-Bearrchon³⁸ of the yellow mantle— King of that territory is O'Caelluidhe, ³⁹ Plain of a tribe, who return heavily, ⁴⁰ The land over the bright-flowing Barrow.

King of Ui-Eirc⁴¹ of slender steeds, Is O'Bruadair⁴² scion of the flood, the Suir, A sandy territory of heavy floods, Like the champaign land of Maenmhagh.⁴³

heads of several families under the Earls of Ormonde, were knights, like the Knights of Glyn and Kerry, under the Earl of Desmond. Of these the most conspicuous in this barony were Gaul-Bourke, O'Dea, Denn and Freney, and in Galmoy, Archdeacon or Mac Odo. The last head of the Archdeacons was

always locally called Sir.

So O'Caelluidhe, now always, but incorrectly, Kelly.* I knew John, son of Kieran O'Caelluidhe, and his sons Thomas and John, who lived at Rochestown on the Barrow. They were very honest, decent farmers, but never heard that their ancestors were chiefs of Ibercon! The late Rev. Mr. Brennan, a native of the City of Waterford, a Roman Catholic priest of very refined learning and eloquence, was the grandson of Kieran O'Caelluidhe above referred to. They had a particular veneration for St. Kieran of Ossory. According to an Irish poem attributed to O'Dugan, O'Caelluidhe was sometimes chief of all Ossory from Slieve-Bloom to the sea; but this family sank into insignificance after the English conquest; only one small family seated near Gowran having retained any kind of hereditary estate.

40 Return heavily, i.e., loaded with spoils from the territories of their enemies! I wish the meaning were "plain of a tribe whose sown crops give heavy re-

turns."

41 Ui-Eirc, i.e., nepotes Erci, now the barony of Iverk, in the south-west of the County of Kilkenny, washed by the river Suir, which divides it from the County of Waterford. This sandy territory is the richest part of the County. The inhabitants were till recently wealthy and well-fed, and were called Durnauns, or churls, by the Munstermen. This epithet, or soubriquet, is said to have been originally bestowed by St. Patrick, on account of the cold reception he got from St. Kieran, at Rathkieran in this barony.

42 O'Bruadair, now Broder, Brothers and Broderick. This name still exists, but there is scarcely one respectable man of the name now in Iverk, nor is there one in the barony who ever heard that O'Bruadair was the ancient

Milesian chieftain.

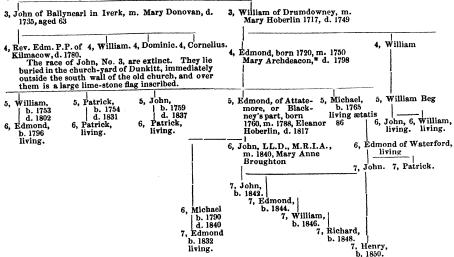
43 Maenmhagh, to which Iverk is here compared, was the ancient name of a

* The names O'Ceallaigh, O'Caelluidhe, O'Ceile, O'Cadhla and O'Caela, are often confounded: O'Ceallaigh is properly Kelly; O'Caela is now Kyley; O'Ceile, Kealy; and O'Cadhla, Keely. Such are the whims of custom!

An fjor Ophajoe an fujnn caoin, An 3-cuma clojnne Cathaoin,

level district around Loughrea, in the present County of Galway, much celebrated by the Irish poets for its fertility; but I would venture to state, that Iverk is not honoured by being likened unto it, for O'Bruadair's sandy territory is far more beautiful and more fertile than the Firbolgian and Lallyan territory of Maenmhagh; but Iverk had no poets to celebrate its amenities. The only persons distinguished, locally, for learning who were natives of this barony at present known to tradition, were Edmond (son of John, son of Cornelius) O'Donovan, P.P. of Kilmacow, who died in 1780, the Rev. Francis Donovan, of Kilmacow, a Franciscan friar, and Mr. James Scurry, of Knockhouse, a good Irish scholar. Michael Donovan, Esq., M.R.I.A., now of 11, Clare-street, Dublin, the celebrated chemist, was born at Kilmacow, in this barony about the year 1788. He is the son of John, son of Michael, son of Michael Donovan, of Kilmacow; and it will not be attributed to Clan-feeling on my part to express the opinion that he is the profoundest philosopher that the Milesian Irish race has yet produced, and that though he has not succeeded in a worldly or lucrative point of view, he is infinitely superior in originality, profundity, and research, to those on whom favours have been showered by the state. I am exceedingly sorry to have to record that I have not the honour of being his relative, or even of being of the same sept of The Rev. Francis Donovan was of his sept, i.e., Calry of the race of Heber. Cashel, but the Rev. Edmond O'Donovan was of mine, i.e., Ui-Cairbre Aeva. The latter and I stand related thus:-

1, Edmond O'Donovan, of Gaulstown, and Bawnlahan, near Castletownshend, in the County of Cork, killed at | Ballinvegga, March 18th, 1643, m. Catherine, d. of William Gaul Bourke of Gaulstown, County of Kilkenny 2, Cornelius of Ballymountain, m. Rose Kavanagh of Ballyleagh, County of Carlow



44 Clanss of Cathaeir, i.e., the families descended from Cathaeir More, king of Leinster and Monarch of Ireland in the 2nd century. These were O'Conor Faly, O'Toole, O'Byrne, Mac Murrough (now Kavanagh), O'Dunne, O'Brennan, O'Rian, O'Dempsey, and various other families. See the Will attributed to this Monarch, printed in the Book of Rights (published by the Celtic Society),

^{*} Mary Archdeacon, my grandmother, was the daughter of John, son of Patrick, son of Pierce Archdeacon, alias Mac Odo, of Erck, in the County of Kilkenny. See Annals of the Four Masters, Ed. J. O'D., A.D. 1544, p. 1488, A.D. 1600, p. 2159, and Appendix, p. 2482.

After visiting Ossory of beauteous land, After enumerating the Clanns of Cathaeir,⁴⁴

where the Editor, by an oversight, forgot to observe that it was written in imitation of the will of the patriarch Jacob in the Old Testament (Genesis, c. 49.)

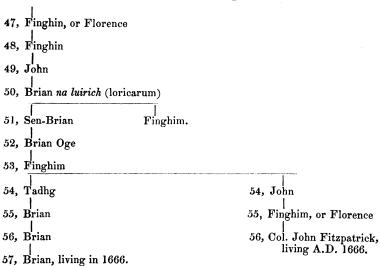
The Ossorians are not of the race of Cathaeir More, but descended from Connla son of Breasal Breac, son of Fiacha Foibhric, from whom Cathaeir More was the 16th in descent. The relationship of the Lagenians and Ossorians will appear from the following table:—

1, Fiacha Foibhric 2. Breasal Breac 3, Connla 4, Nuada 4, Lughaidh Loittfinn, ancestor of the Leinstermen 5. Carthach 5, Sedna Sithbhaic 6, Labhraidh 6, Nuada Necht 7, Lughaidh 7, Fergus Fairge 8, Oilill 8, Rossa Ruadh, Rex Lageniæ 9, Sedna 9, Finn, the poet 10. Iar 10. Conchobhar Abhraruadh 11, Crimthann More 11, Mogh Corb, Rex Lageniæ 12, Aengus Ossory, who con-12, Cucorb, R.L. quered as far as the Suir 13, Laeghaire the victorious. 13, Nia Corb Mesin Corb, His mother was Sidhe, d. a quo Dal of Dalway, the druid 14, Cormac Gealta Mesin-Corb. 14, Amhalghaidh 15, Felimidh Firurghlais 15. Eochaidh Lamhdoid 16, Cathaeir More, R.H., a quo the Lagenians. 16, Buan of Ossory 17, Nia Corb 18. Cairbre Caemh 19, Conall 20, Feradhach 20, Rumann 21, Kinfaela 21, Colman, chief of

Ossory, A.D. 601

	2/4/1 co 1/01/11-41/4/2 4/11 /-e/11/11/11		
22,	Scanlan More, i.e., the Great	22, Scanlan, the friend	
23,	Laighne Failidh, i.e., the Gay	of St. Columbkille,	
24,	Bicne Caech, i.e., the Blind, or one-eyed		
25,	Colman More		
26,	Ronan Righfhlaith, or Regal Chieftain		
27,	Crunnmhael		
28,	Faelan, or Phelan		
29,	Cucerca		
30,	Anmchadh, or Animosus		
31,	Amhalgaidh, or Awley		
32,	Ferghal, or Farrell		
33,	Dunghal, or Dunnal		
34,	Cearbhall, or Carroll		
35,	Ceallach, or Kellagh		
36,	Donnchadh, or Donough		
	Gillaphadraig, slain by Donovan, son of Ivon Waterford, A.D. 995 Donnchadh, R. Lageniæ, obiit, A.D. 1039,	•	
39,	Domhnall, founder of Jerpoint Abbey		
40,	Gillaphadraig		
41,	Scanlan		
42,	Domhnall Clannach*, i.e., of the Clanns or t	ribes	
43,	Domhnall of Magh-Laeighse, i.e., of the Pl	ain of Leix	
44,	Geffry Bacach, i.e., the Lame		
45,	Geffry Finn		
46,	J Domhnall		
47,	Domhnall Dubh		
*" Donnate Clonaghe Mac Gilpatricke was a peerless warriour in Anno 1219."— Campion.			

Pass we (nor wonder at it) to the Suir Westwards to the fair rich plain of Feimhin.



O'Dugan, who mentions only the great families of Ossory, sets down the Clann-Cearbhaill, the Clann-Donnchadha and Mac Gillaphadraig, as the kings in their turn; and the Ui-Bruadair, Mac Breens, and the Ui-Broenain, as three families of Munster, inhabiting, the one Uibh-Eirc, the second the Clanna, and the third the Comer, i.e. Castlecomer, the head residence of Ui-Duach. It is highly probable that the Clanna or Clanns, were seated in the barony of Knocktopher, and that they were supplanted by the Breathnachs or Walshes.

A great number of Cromwellian families were settled in the County of Kilkenny, who got considerable estates, forfeited by those Anglo-Irish families who opposed the peace of Ormonde, and had fought against him at Ballinvegga, 18th March, 1643. The Archæological Society of Kilkenny ought to investigate the exact amount of forfeiture in Cromwell's time, and the restorations under the Act of Settlement and Explanation. The families of Bishopp, Dyas, Snowe, Caroline, Furnish, Oberlin, &c., were settled in the barony of Ida in Cromwell's time; and it is curious to observe, that nearly all these families, are now either extinct, or reduced to plebeianism. My great-grandfather William, who was proud almost to madness of his maternal descent from the Kavanaghs and from Sir William De Burgo of Ballydooley, was in the habit of telling old Robert Snowe of Snowhill, that he (Robert Snowe) was descended from a weaver, who came over with Cromwell and his pick-pockets; and Snowe, who was a very sensible man, was wont to reply that all bloods were equally red and equally old; and that it would be found that all bloods were good or bad according to the kind of food the possessor used. To this William was wont to reply that the families settled by Cromwell in Ida had never any food but what they either stole or earned by mean trades. These feelings of ancient pride and family distinction, which certainly have retarded the progress of civilization, existed to a late period in the County of Kilkenny, but the late famine has nearly obliterated them. The ancient Irish were the first stream of population from Asia, and they retain the traces of primitive shepherd rudeness, and patriarchal feelings.